

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 261146Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8897

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T OSLO 4799

EXDIS

MOSCOW-FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP

REFERENCES: STATE 234104 MOSCOW 16117

1. I SPENT AN HOUR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ON OCTOBER 25 AND AGAIN RAN THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF FULL NORWEGIAN IEP MEMBERSHIP. FRYDENLUND WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BUDGE AND SAID CABINET HAD ALREADY DECIDED NOT REPEAT NOT TO PARTICIPATE AS A FULL MEMBER IN IEP. ALTHOUGH I WENT OVER GROUND WITH HIM SEVERAL TIMES, I WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS EVEN TO RAISE ISSUE AGAIN IN CABINET.

2. FRYDENLUND SAID NORWAY COULD NOT ACCEPT AUTHMATICITY OF IEP AGREEMENT. ATTEMPT TO PUSH AGREEMENT THROUGH PARLIAMENT WITHOUT ELIMINATION OF AUTOMATICITY WOULD SPLIT PARLIAMENT AND NATION AND REAWAKEN DEVISIVE ISSUES OF EEC MEMBERSHIP DEBATE. HE CONCEDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT WIN A CLOSE VOTE IF IT MADE FULL MEMBERSHIP A CONFIDENCE ISSUE, BUT SAID THAT ADVERSE IMPACT ON LABOR GOVERNMENT'S LONGER TERM ABILITY TO GOVERN AS WELL AS DAMAGE TO NORWAY'S WESTERN ORIENTATION, INCLUDING NATO TIES,

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AND RESULTING POLARIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION WOULD DO FAR GREATER

DAMAGE THAN BENEFITS OF FULL MEMBERSHIP. A FREE VOTE WOULD, ACCORDING TO FRYDENLUND, ALMOST CERTAINLY BE LOST, AND EMBASSY SOUNDINGS OF WHOLE SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL OPINION IN NORWAY, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN OF PRO-IEP CONSERVATIVE PARTY, CONFIRM THIS ANALYSIS WITH ALMOST UNANIMOUS ACCORD AGAINST WISDOM OF PUSHING ISSUE, GIVEN IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LABOR PARTY AND THE COUNTRY.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CRITICIZED FOR NOT TAKING PARLIAMENT INTO HIS CONFIDENCE BECAUSE HE RESPECTED HIS PROMISE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT NORWEGIAN IEP POSITION BEFORE OCTOBER 29TH. HE WOULD WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER 30TH TO SHOW LETTER TO ECG TO HIS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON 29TH) CONTAINING NORWEGIAN POSITION AND WOULD ASK COMMITTEE FOR AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE "ADHESION" WITH IEP WITHOUT AUTOMATICITY. HE WOULD THEN DISCUSS NORWEGIAN POSITION IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON NOVEMBER 1. (STATEMENT WILL BE DEBATED ON NOVEMBER 19.)

4. I STRESSED THAT ECG WILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT "ADHESION" AFTER NOVEMBER 18TH DID NOT MEAN THAT ADHESION WOULD BE EASY OR EVEN ACCEPTABLE. ON CONTRARY TERMS OF ADHESION WHICH GAVE UP KEY IEP ELEMENT OF AUTOMATICITY WERE LIKELY TO BE EXTREMELY TOUGH AND COULD EVEN GIVE GREATER DIFFICULTY TO NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT THAN ORIGINAL TERMS OF FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP.

5. FRYDENLUND VOLUNTEERED THAT INDICATIONS HE HAD RECEIVED ABOUT INCREASING NORWAY'S IEP ALLOCATION COMMITMENTS (HE SAID DOUBLING) WOULD CREATE NO PROBLEMS, BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED TO PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL. IF TERMS WERE TOO TOUGH, NORWAY WOULD HAVE TO FOREGO EVEN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE AND THAT SIGNAL HE THOUGHT HE HAD RECEIVED IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER THAT SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE AFFILIATION COULD BE WORKED OUT WAS NOT ERRONEOUS.

6. DANISH AMBASSADOR MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHE ON OCTOBER 25TH, STRESSING DESIREABILITY OF HAVING NORWAY WITHHOLD A FINAL DECISION ON IEP MEMBERSHIP UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER 18TH. FRYDENLUND GAVE HIM NO MORE ENCOURAGEMENT THAN ME AND SAID HE COULD NOT DEFER

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ACTION BEYOND OCTOBER 30TH.

7. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS CONSULTED ME ON INSTRUCTIONS AND HAS GONE BACK TO WHITEHALL WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT HE BE DIRECTED TO MAKE APPROACH SIMILAR TO MINE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH EVEN THOUGH HE BELIEVES POSITIVE NORWEGIAN RESPONSE UNLIKELY. HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE ABOUT TURN THE ISSUE WAS TAKING AS HE HAD RECEIVED LARGE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC FROM BRUSSELS INDICATING

THAT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORWAY HAD
BEEN ALL BUT WORKED OUT.

8. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT NORWAY WILL AGREE
TO FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP, I HAVE ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME
MINISTER BRATTELI ON MONDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 28TH AFTER HE RETURNS
FROM HIS VISIT TO EASTERN EUROPE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, IEP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO04799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740306-0772
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741013/aaaaaksx.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 234104 MOSCOW 16117
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: ENRG, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005